

# 1<sup>st</sup> Log Cabin in Ashley Valley

## Plans Ahead On:

## **How to Proceed:**

Date Done:

*Refs:* 1. DWP "Pioneer Pathways"  
Vol 3. pp 436-438

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Vol 3, pp 436-438

had all gone to Vernal and hauled lumber from Jake's sawmill and had made a big platform in the grove where they all danced after dinner. I didn't dance because the lumber was rough and unplaned, and I got slivers in my feet. My father and grandfather, sister May, and brother Lute all played the violin, and John Rasmussen with his accordion made plenty of good music. Then there were the Misses Carrie, Addie and Sadie Arnold, Miss June Ainge, Sister May and Pearl Stewart, Sadie and Helen Dudley, Harma and Maggie Burton, Elizabeth and Rebecca Murray, and two McCarrell girls from up Ashley Creek. At that time, Mr. Hunting, Emma Murray's father, was presiding elder over Riverdale Ward and his girls, Carrie and Emma, were there. The Rasmussen girls, Linda, Katie, and Minnie, were present. The afternoon was spent in foot races and horse races. My brother Gerald's horse called "Snail" won the first prize which was a pair of new boots and a new bridle. Gerald was eleven years old then and was he a tickled boy! The horse was ridden by Tom McNeil who was a beautiful rider.

After the races, about sundown, boys from each family went home to do evening chores. While they were gone the men played ball and horse-shoes while the women got supper and the kids danced. When the boys came back, we all ate supper by a roaring bonfire. Arthur Johnson had been to Denver, Colorado, and brought back a lot of Roman candles and twenty-four skyrockets. He had bought them for my brother Lloyd and me. Arthur Johnson was going with my sister May and wanted to make good with the old folks. When he found there was to be a celebration, he kept them; and that night before the dance started, he set them off. Those were the first fireworks lots of us had ever seen. The dance lasted all night long, lit by a big bonfire. At midnight they spread out the remains of the lunch and ate again; then danced till sun-up, when we all went home. The cows were bawling to be milked, and we were a tired but happy bunch.

When I started home, I had a belly full, but I had had too much of everything, lemonade mostly. Crossing Ashley Creek bridge I got sick and from there on home I hung my head out over the end of the wagon. I had a very sick stomach but a happy heart, and I also had an orange and a little striped bag full of candy which I had hung onto all day and all night. So ended the first celebration I ever remember.

#### PARDON DODDS

Pardon Dodds was the son of Durias Dodds and Cordellia Austin Dodds and was born March 13, 1837, in Erie, Erie County, Pennsylvania. When he was young his family moved to Portage County, Wisconsin. At

age fifteen he went to work for a man in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, and was self-supporting from that time on. While he was working and attending the Iron City College in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the Civil War broke out. Many of the students enlisted in the Union Army, so the school closed.

Pardon enlisted on October 9, 1862, in the tenth Ohio volunteer cavalry led by Lieutenant A. L. Jones, and went to Camp Cleveland. There he received his equipment and had three weeks of cavalry training. From here he went to Cincinnati, up the Cumberland River to Nashville, Tennessee, and from there to Murfreesboro, Tennessee, on the Stone River. His brother Clinton was with him and was stricken with typhoid fever, sent back to Nashville to the hospital, and later died. Pardon was also stricken with this dreaded disease and sent back to the hospital in Nashville, but he recovered. He then returned to his company near Chattanooga, Tennessee. After a battle there, the company started a march through Georgia with General William T. Sherman. Pardon was promoted to master sergeant on January 15, 1863, and to second lieutenant May 31, 1863. He was mustered out with his company in Lexington, North Carolina, on April 24, 1865. At this place he was put in charge of a band of cavalry horses and ordered to deliver them at Cleveland, Ohio, where he received an honorable discharge from the army by Governor John Brough on May 31, 1865.

Pardon opened and operated an oyster parlor in Alliance, Ohio, for a short time. Here he met an army comrade named Harwood Head. They decided to come west and arrived in Salt Lake City on September 7, 1866. In the spring of 1867 they went to Ruby Valley, Nevada, and ran a saw mill. That fall Pardon was called to be the Indian agent for the Uintah Agency which was located on the upper Duchesne River. In the spring of 1868, he received his commission as agent from the President of the United States, Andrew Johnson. He moved the agency to Rock Creek where he raised crops. In the fall of 1868 the agency was moved to Whiterocks with a crew of seven men. They constructed buildings and prepared the ground for farming for the coming season. Pardon was questioned as to whether he was ever officially appointed. He remarked, "I certainly was and have the paper signed by the president who made the appointment, and I was under a \$20,000 bond. I remained here until my successor, John J. Critchlow, arrived."

Pardon Dodds and Morris Evans came to Ashley Valley to locate on February 14, 1873. The trip was slow and hard, and they were almost forced to turn back. Pardon built the first cabin in Ashley Valley, and a storeroom where he traded with the Indians before any other white settlers came. The cabin was built of logs and chinked with mud. It had a



Family of Pardon Dodds Sr.

Seated: Pardon Sr., Joseph and Minnie. Standing: Art, Ray, Pardon Jr., and Jane (Jennie).

door in three walls and one window on the front, which faced east, and one on the north. It had a dirt roof and a whip-sawed board floor. It was built from cottonwood trees that were cut in the yard where the cabin was raised. The logs were notched to fit on the corners so that no nails were needed. Wooden square pegs were used in place of nails for other areas. The two men engaged in the horse and cattle business.

Pardon married Minnie Hatch, daughter of Abram Hatch on December 17, 1879, in Heber City, Utah. She was talented in music and taught organ lessons to many of the younger settlers. On February 18, 1880, Pardon Dodds was appointed a selectman for Uintah County in the Territory of Utah by Governor Eli H. Murray. On October 20, 1882, he was appointed prosecuting attorney for Uintah County, and on August 27, 1883, he was appointed commissioner of the court. Later, he was appointed United States Commissioner by Ezra T. Sprague, Clerk of the Supreme Court.

Pardon Dodds died September 4, 1921, at the age of eighty-four in Vernal, Utah.

The first cabin he built served as home for his family from 1873 to 1897 when a large frame house was erected. In October 1963, the Daughters of Utah Pioneers in Vernal dedicated a marker telling about the first log house built in old Ashley town in Uintah County. It is erected close to the site of the first house built by Pardon Dodds.<sup>11</sup>

# Firsts in Wasatch County History:

1st Log Cabin in  
Ashley Valley

Date: Feb 1873

## Specific First:

## Proof:

Had  
Pic of log Cabin  
Made of Cottonwood trees  
Had dirt roof but whip sawed board  
Floor  
Doors on 3 sides & one window  
in front. Front faced East.  
No nails, but wooden pegs

He lived in cabin  
traded Indian  
before white  
people came

Had  
Pic dirt roof  
log cabin  
written on